

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for distributing software comprising:
- producing a host file by a host software manufacturer;
  - providing the host file from the host software manufacturer to a certification entity;
  - testing the operation of the host file by the certification entity;
  - certifying the host file for operation in a host wherein certifying the host file for operation in a host comprises certifying the host file is compatible with a host associated with a specific host manufacturer and a model associated with the specific host manufacturer;
  - establishing a first connection from a data processing system to a host file database wherein said host file include at least one of a host protocol file, host data file, host profile file, or host configuration message set file, wherein said host profile file indicates one of a plurality of resources incorporated in the host, wherein at least one of the resources processes digital video signals received by the host over a cable distribution system, wherein further the host profile file is used to create a user-interface in a configuration message set creation system used to create at least one host configuration message, wherein said at least one host configuration message is sent to a host;
  - transferring the host file from the data processing system to the host file database after the host file has been certified by the certification entity;
  - receiving confirmation of receipt of the host software file from the host file database;
  - identifying an enhanced services system to receive the host software file;
  - establishing a second connection from the host file database to the enhanced services system; and
  - transferring the host file from the host file database to the enhanced services system.

2-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A method of downloading a host file, comprising:

producing the host file by a host software manufacturer to facilitate creation of configuration messages to control a host on a cable network;

providing the host file to a certification entity;

receiving a certification indication from the certification entity indicating the host file is compatible with the host;

establishing a connection from a first data processing system operated either by the host software manufacturer or the certification entity to a second data processing system, the second data processing system comprising a database for storing host file to be downloaded to a host;

authenticating the first data processing system to the second the data processing system;

transferring a copy of the host file comprising a host protocol file and a host profile file to the second data processing system after the certification entity has certified the host file;

receiving a confirmation indication from the second data processing system of the receipt of the host file;

identifying one of a plurality of an enhanced services systems to receive the host file;

establishing a connection from the second data processing system to the one of the plurality of enhanced services systems; and

transferring the host file to the one of a plurality of enhanced services systems.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the host protocol file comprises at a plurality of host specific protocol messages used by an operator of an enhanced services system to create said configuration messages to interact with the host.

16. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the host profile file indicates a host type comprising a specific host manufacturer and a model associated with the specific host manufacturer.

17. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the host protocol file contains a version number associated with the host protocol file.

18. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the certification indication includes an identification associated with the host, the identification further associated with a specific host manufacturer and a model of the specific host manufacturer.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the host file database records a date and time of receipt of the host file, the certification indication, and the confirmation indication.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 where the host file contains software objects capable of being executed in a consumer electronics host wherein the consumer electronics host processes digital multi-media signals.

21. (cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 where the step of transferring the host file to the one of a plurality enhanced services systems further includes transferring a copy of the certification indication.

23-72. (Cancelled)